



# INITIATIVE FOR CONSERVATION IN THE ANDEAN AMAZON

## FY 2013 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

### FONDO PARA LA ACCION AMBIENTAL Y LA NIÑEZ

#### 1. PROJECT COVER SHEET

1.1. NAME OF THE PROJECT: CAQUETÁ: MAINTAINING AND RESTORING  
CONNECTIONS WITHIN ANDEAN AND AMAZONIAN SOCIAL AND NATURAL  
SYSTEMS

1.2. DATES (START/FINISH)  
AGREEMENT/CONTRACT  
7/30/2013 TO 7/29/2017

REPORT PERIOD  
8/1/2013 TO 9/30/2013

1.3. PRIME PARTNER: Fondo Acción

1.4. NAME OF PROGRAM MANAGER: [CLICK HERE TO ENTER A DATE.](#)  
[CLICK HERE TO ENTER TEXT.](#)

1.5. NAME OF USAID AGREEMENT OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE (AOR) OR  
CONTRACT OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE (COR): [HAGA CLIC AQUÍ](#)  
[PARA ESCRIBIR TEXTO.](#)

1.6. NAME OF ALTERNATE AOR OR COR: Haga clic aquí para escribir texto.

1.7. USAID MECHANISM NUMBER OF AGREEMENT OR CONTRACT:  
AID 530-A-13-00005

1.8. OVERALL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This project seeks to restore forest continuity and sustainably manage existing forest remnants by contributing to the consolidation of a bio-cultural corridor in the Andean-Amazonian Piedmont and to the configuration of reduced deforestation belt in the Caquetá municipality of Solano, gateway to the Amazonian lowlands. We propose developing strategies that include generating the enabling conditions that guarantee the project's success by creating greater access to relevant information and developing conservation portfolios and landscape transformation strategies, which in turn will guide the development of participatory sustainable management models and conservation benefit mechanisms for indigenous and small farmer populations. Synergistically, the project will support key policy opportunities at the local, state, and national levels and provide the necessary capacity building for communities and project partners. This goal will be achieved through a detailed design of activities tailored for two selected landscapes (piedmont and lowlands), taking into account the cultural diversity of the two priority areas and ensuring a gender perspective throughout the project. Although the project focuses on maintaining and restoring forest connectivity within two priority areas, it will refine strategies, strengthen partnerships and facilitate policy frameworks for the future implementation of its successful models in the area of highest deforestation separating the two prioritized ecosystems, consequently contributing to restoring continuity between these Andean and Amazonian social and natural systems. The project will focus on two key areas: (1) the Andean-Amazonian Piedmont bio-cultural corridor comprised of the Alto Fragua Indi Wasi National Park (Caquetá state) and the Churumbelos National Park (Cauca State) and their area of influence, where Inga indigenous communities and neighboring small farmers will be prioritized; and (2) the Uitoto and Coreguaje territories and neighboring small farms located in Caquetá's municipality of Solano, a critical transition area to the Amazonian lowlands, an area that is associated with the La Paya National Park and Chiribiquete National Park protected areas. The project focuses on four key components: Enabling conditions,

Landscape transformation through sustainable management and conservation of natural resources, Local policy transformation and Capacity building

## 2. ACHIEVEMENTS OVERVIEW

### 2.1. ICAA INTERMEDIATE RESULTS

#### 2.1.1 **IR1 – Selected Landscapes Managed Sustainably**

During the months of August and September there were not specific technical or implementation activities aiming at IR1 provided that work plan was approved on October the 28<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, there are not IR1-specific implementation achievements. Nonetheless, some of the networking activities, which will be further explained in section 3, were set to establish the ground for the ecosystem analysis that will be the basis for the landscape transformation schemes.

Main challenges were related with the need of coordination and synchronization with other projects (NZD and Patrimonio Natural ICAA II) particularly in relation with baseline information gathering. Anticipated challenges ahead are the maintenance of coordinating / networking channels with other project executors and local actors, including Patrimonio Natural as ICAA II project operator.

#### 2.1.2 **IR2 – Key Elements of Natural Resources Governance Functioning in Critical Landscapes**

During the months of August and September there were not specific technical or implementation activities aiming at IR2 provided that work plan was approved on October the 28<sup>th</sup>. Concrete achievements, therefore, were not obtained. Nonetheless, as it will be further explained in section 3, important networking and synergies actions both at subnational and landscape levels were undertaken to facilitate the co-designing of land management's plans and the arrangement for the presence of Caqueta's government in an international round table for the discussion on Climate and Forest strategies.

Anticipated challenges ahead are the maintenance of coordinating/networking channels with all other project executors and local actors, including Patrimonio Natural as ICAA II project operator.

#### 2.1.3 **IR3 – Increased Capacity to Utilize PES-like and other Economic Incentive Programs**

During the months of August and September there were not concrete achievements

related with IR3 provided that work plan was approved on October the 28<sup>th</sup>. Nonetheless, during such period the project did facilitate the contacts and arrangements for the participation of the Government of Caquetá in the Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force (GFC) to be held in Puerto Maldonado (Perú) in October, event in which the departmental government of Caquetá will witness at first hand efforts at international level to establish strategies to reduce emissions which include PES – like and other economic incentives.

#### **2.1.4 IR4 – Greater Understanding and Solutions for Key Environmental Issues**

Although during August and September there were not specific technical or implementation activities responding to IR4 provided that work plan was approved on October the 28<sup>th</sup>, important networking and synergies activities (further explained in section 3) were aimed at this intermediate result, which clearly overlaps with project's component 1: Enabling Conditions. The main achievement during the first two months is therefore the establishment of a fluid articulation and coordination effort mainly with The Nature Conservancy, Amazon Conservation Team and the Planning Secretariat of the Government of Caquetá. Main results will be explain in section 3

Main challenges dealt with the need of coordination and synchronization of FA/ACT ICAA II project with TNC NZD project, particularly in relation with baseline information gathering in the municipality of Solano. Anticipated challenges ahead are the maintenance of coordinating / networking channels with other project executors, and the fine tuning of information complementarities with TNC.

#### **2.1.5 Support Unit Services**

The project has yet to start its interactions with the support unit. Activities are planned for 2014 QR 1.

### **2.2 CROSS-CUTTING THEMES AND USAID KEY ISSUES**

#### **2.2.1 Improve Policies and Policy Implementation**

Not apply for the period reported.

### 2.2.2 Increase Gender Awareness and Gender-related Program Outcomes

During the first two months of project implementation, efforts were directed to arrange the support from the Gender Support Unit Team to steer activities within the project. Efforts will be devoted to ensure the inclusion of gender perspective in the identification of key landscapes, the identification and discussions of conflicting issues between indigenous and farmer communities, the design of specific transformation strategies and land use management plans for the two areas of intervention plans. In this order of ideas, a meeting was arranged for 2014 QT 1 to both understand the scope of the Gender Support Unit Team and establish a stepping stone process to achieve Gender objectives within the project .

### 2.2.3 Strengthening of Selected Regional Organizations and Institutions

Not apply for the period reported

### 2.2.4 Improve Region-wide Capacity for Conservation Through Training

Not apply for the period reported

### 2.2.5 Increase Indigenous Peoples' Participation

Not apply for the period reported

During this period we worked with the following indigenous groups in the Andean Amazon:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Amahuaca	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cashinahua	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cacataibo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Culina	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yanesha
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mastanahua	<input type="checkbox"/>	Siona
<input type="checkbox"/>	Piro	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cofán
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sharanahua	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ese' ejja

<input type="checkbox"/>	Asháninka	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amarakaeri
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yaminahua	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arazaeri
<input type="checkbox"/>	Harakmbut	<input type="checkbox"/>	Huachipaeri
<input type="checkbox"/>	Machiguenga	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sapitieri
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shipibo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toyoeeri
<input type="checkbox"/>	Isconahua	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pukirieri
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shuar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quechua, Aymara
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kichwa	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Secoya	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shipibo
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Otros

#### 2.2.6 Climate Change - Adaptation

Not apply for the period reported

#### 2.2.7 Climate Change (Sustainable Landscapes, REDD+)

Not apply for the period reported

### 3. NETWORKING AND SYNERGY

#### 3.1. ANDEAN AMAZON LEVEL

Not apply

#### 3.2. NATIONAL LEVEL

Not apply

#### 3.3. SUB NATIONAL LEVEL

To guarantee effective and efficient coordination with other projects, during the months of August and September the project participated in a meetings led by the Planning Secretariat of the Department of Caquetá aiming at coordinating and synchronizing all the ongoing initiatives throughout Caquetá Department (Province). During these meeting the targets and expected results of all the ongoing initiatives where mapped in a matrix so as to identify synergy potentials and redundancy risks. To deal with such circumstances, all participants (TNC, PNN, Patrimonio Natural, ACT, Secretariat of planning - Government of Caquetá) agreed upon reviewing carefully the consolidated matrix in order to individually assess synergy options and overlapping activities. Based on such review, all projects will set the adequate coordination arrangements. Participants also agreed upon the need of creating a coordinating channel led by the Planning Secretariat of the Department of Caquetá. This process will, for instance,

facilitate periodic meetings where all projects will follow up general progress in order to undertake, if needed, realigning actions. The will of all active projects to coordinate and complement their activities within the frame of the whole departmental picture opens the door for a more efficient and effective tackling of the region needs. Meetings were held with consortium member ACT and Caquetá Government to design a detailed work plan for year 1 and to establish formal project agreements.

### 3.4. LANDSCAPE LEVEL

The fact that Patrimonio Natural' ICAA II project and Fondo Acción's ICAA II project share geographies and similar intervention strategies implied an interesting coordination challenge. The initial efforts to create synergies and avoid redundancies were undertaken during August and September ("on the ground" coordinating actions are still to come). Through a series of coordination meetings and exchange communications with Patrimonio Natural, some overarching understanding was reached over two main dimensions, namely programmatic lines and geography. The main elements of the coordinating fine tuning reached are: a) A proposal of geographical distribution where micro-watershed location is in the center b) A proposal of thematic distribution per project component related to technical information where the emphasis of Patrimonio Natural will be Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis and that of Fondo Acción Ecosystem Analysis (threats, deforestation drivers, ecosystem services), c) A proposal of stakeholders distribution, d) The understanding that when thematic distribution is unachievable, geographical distribution remains. The two projects have agreed to fine tune and share stakeholder involvement in order to reach out in a coordinated and coherent manner. The coordination reached on the strategic aforementioned matters are set to provide a more comprehensive response to the region's needs and a solid and integrated package of technical information where both organization will work in a complementary way.

With other actor and projects at landscape level networking and synergies in the technical ground was also pursued during August and September., the main achievements in this respect can be summarized as follows: 1) A first approach was made with the Government of Caquetá and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to determine possible information needs, gaps and complementarities related with the ecosystem analysis. This approach facilitated a first understanding of the information related with deforestation TNC is planning to gather during year 2014 for the municipality of Solano. It equally served to have a bigger picture of the different projects currently running in Caquetá at site level (Sinchi –Restoration of degraded lands, Caquetá Government - Sustainable Cattle Ranching, ACT – Food Security, TNC/Natura – Net Zero Deforestation, Moore – Environmental Determinants and Territorial Planning, among others). Within the frame of coordination efforts led by the Government of Caquetá to synchronize all ongoing projects, FA/ACT project achieved the following: a) An adding up approach of work with other project executors was agreed (mainly TNC, ACT, Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia, Avina, Patrimonio Natural, Encausa), b) the will from TNC to articulate activities associated to the construction of Land Management Plans , and c) the informal agreement of

synchronizing all primary data-gathering processes so as to avoid redundancy. Anticipated challenges ahead are the maintenance of coordinating channels with all project executors and local actors, including Patrimonio Natural as ICAA II project operator, and expected change in municipal administrations and all the elections process, which might introduce new priorities for local officers at the departmental municipal level. Rising or escalation of ongoing armed conflict due to the failure of peace talks poses additional challenges.

### 3.5. OTHERS

During the months of August and September, this project has had specific interactions with Net-Zero Deforestation Project, initiative run in Caquetá by Rainforest Alliance and Fundación Natura in the municipalities of El Doncello, Paujil and Florencia, and by TNC, ACT and COICA in the municipality of Solano. In order to build upon their experience and work, particularly for the Solano municipality, the project interacted specifically with TNC with whom articulation was pursued. Based on TNC's work in Solano, the interaction pursued the identification of preliminary interacting and complementary lines of collaboration. Out of such meetings three main lines were identified: a) Generation of baseline and technical information associated to the Ecosystem Analysis, predominantly related with biodiversity. FA/ACT ICAA II program and TNC– NZD program will make sure all baseline and technical information gathered is complementary to each other. Duplication of information will be avoided, b) Capacity building activities undertaken by each program on Natural Resource Management, Biodiversity and Climate Change, among others, will be planned to be complementary so as to use resources efficiently and to cover a wider spectrum of knowledge c) Work on the Land Management Plan of Solano will follow the same complementary spirit. Since TNC has already progressed on the participatory construction of Solano's Land Management Plans, actions undertaken by the FA/ACT ICAA II program will be aimed to fill the gaps and complement actions. Further and fine grain articulation is needed and will be carried out during Q1 FY2014

## 4. IMPACT OF LEVERAGED RESOURCES

No leveraged resources to report during this quarter. The project is exploring leveraging opportunities due to the important presence of non-US international cooperation projects in the State of Caquetá.

## 5. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

First Performance Management Plan for FY2014 was recently submitted and approved



## 6. SUCCESS STORIES

Not apply

## 7. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Not apply for the period reported - On the field execution has not yet started since year 1 Work Plan was recently submitted and approved.

## 8. SUMMARY

### 8.1 ACHIEVEMENTS

As explained above, this ICAA project has been running since the month of August 2013. Until now two main achievements have been reached:

- Fine grain project coordination with Patrimonio Natural (as ICAA II executor in the region) was established and concrete results were reached. Such results guarantee complementary over redundancy as well as an efficient use of resources.
- In the same line, second achievement is related with the setting up of an exchange and coordinating channel with all project implementers at Subnational Level. Such channel, headed by the Planning Secretariat of the Department of Caquetá, will foster synchronicity and alignment among all actors running projects in Caquetá.

### 8.2 CHALLENGES AND ADJUSTMENTS

The main challenge encountered during the period of time corresponding to this report was the need of a Fine Grain Coordination with the other ICAA II project in the region. The fact that Patrimonio's ICAA II project and Fondo Acción's ICAA II project have shared geographies and similar intervention strategies posed an interesting coordination challenge. Efforts were and are being made to create synergies where possible and to avoid redundancies in all project components. So far, coordinating actions have been reached in two dimensions: a) Geographical distribution of activities, and. b) programmatic emphasis of the interventions. Likewise, coordination needs at regional and landscape level with other projects (different to ICAA) also did pose a challenge, particularly because some aim at objectives alike. To deal with this, a meeting was held in Florencia to synchronize projects by the use of a consolidated matrix with project's objectives, activities and geographies. Extra coordinating meeting will take place during Qr1 FY2014

## 9. ANNEXES

9.1 Annex A – List of Acronyms

9.2 Annex B – Maps Indicators 1 and 2

9.3 Annex C – Revised PMP

## 10. IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS

10.1 TABLE 1. Targets and Achievements Table – ICAA-wide Indicators (Excel file).

10.2 TABLE 2. Funding Level

The following tables are included in the attached excel file:

10.3 TABLE 3. Targets and Achievements Table – Partner Indicators

10.4 TABLE 4. Activity Description

10.5 TABLE 5. Funding Sources